PROCEEDINGS OF
THE KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

First Session—1964

Friday, the 24th January, 1964.

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Trivandrum at Eight of the clock on Friday, the 24th January, 1964, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

The Governor having arrived in the Chamber in procession, took his seat on the Dais at Eight of the clock.

The Governor :

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Assembly,

I am happy that it is once again my privilege, as the Head of the State, to address the opening session of this Assembly and to extend to you all, my hearty felicitations for a happy New Year. The year 1963 has been one of unusual significance to our nation. It was the first time after Independence that we were called upon to face the burdens arising from external aggression. Rallying our forces without losing time, we rushed to the sacred duty of the defence of our motherland. Despite withdrawal of the enemy's forces, the need for vigilance continued in view of the uncertain possibilities on our northern border.

2. Direct requirements of an emergency naturally assumed paramount importance. My Government, as I told you last year, addressed themselves promptly

to the task of contributing our share in meeting these requirements. The year we have left behind witnessed the accomplishment of some of our objectives, the acceleration of the pace of achievement of some others and the introduction of many new ventures in this regard. The target of Rs. 170 lakhs we set as our share of the National Defence Fund has already been exceeded by nearly Rs. 15 lakhs. In January last year, a Director of Civil Defence was appointed to co-ordinate all the civil defence activities of the State. Among the civil defence measures, priority has been given to the Home Guards Organisation. Since January 1963, 3000 more volunteers, drawn from all walks of life have joined the organisation and their training is in progress. Steps to impart instruction in specialised subjects connected with Emergency Relief and Internal Security such as the maintenance of Essential Services are under active consideration. In response to a request from the Government of Nagaland, the term of deputation of the 1st Battalion, M.S.P. which was sent there in October 1962, was extended by another year. The 1st Battalion of the Special Armed Police was also deputed to Nagaland in October, 1963.

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3. An accelerated scheme of training driver mechanics, radio mechanics, wireless operators and engineering craftsmen for supply to defence services was undertaken in February last, utilising the facilities and working additional shifts in the industrial and technical institutions under the State Government. Institutions in the private sector also offered their willing co-operation.

4. In order to increase the number of technically trained persons, a three-year degree course was started in the Engineering College, Trivandrum. Two-year post-graduate course in Engineering and part-time course for A.M.I.E. have also been started.

Admissions to the Medical Colleges of the State have been increased in order to meet the increasing demand for qualified medical men.

5. To meet the requirements of the Defence and Civil Services three new nursing schools were started. One more will be opened soon. In Trivandrum a college of nursing is being organised. Training in first-aid is being given to the public in hospitals all over the State. Blood Banks have been organised in all the districts and arrangements made to register volunteers for supply of blood to defence services in case the need arises.

6. The concession of free education allowed to the children of Service Personnel has been extended to the brothers, sisters and wives of the personnel. Suitable allowances have been sanctioned to the children of Service Personnel killed or disabled in action, for purchase of books for their studies in schools and colleges. Seats have been reserved for the Teacher training course in favour of wives and dependants of army personnel. The introduction of the Village Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Bank schemes has been an achievement of major significance in our defence efforts.

7. These activities, however, constituted only one phase of our vigilance during Emergency. Accelerated planned development became, more than ever before, an urgent necessity. The annual plan for social and economic development which was originally framed for the year 1963-64 involved an expenditure of Rs. 32.88 crores. Additional programmes, particularly those for higher agricultural production, had to be laid out and they enhanced the financial requirements for the year considerably. It is expected that the enlarged targets will be substantially fulfilled and in fact exceeded in certain sectors. For 1964-65, we are aiming at a still bigger target of achievement with greater emphasis on agricultural

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production, industrial development and Power programmes. The Planning Commission have agreed to an outlay of Rs. 44.17 crores for the year.

8. The most important step taken towards higher agricultural production was the wider coverage given to the Package Programme. It has been extended to thirty Blocks. Next year two more Blocks in Alleppey district will be selected thereby covering the entire districts of Alleppey and Palghat with this programme. Besides, nineteen Blocks have been taken up for an Impact Programme for Intensive Cultivation of Rice. As a result of intensified work in this field, particularly during the past few years, there has been increased adoption of improved agricultural practices such as use of better seeds, chemical fertilizers, organic manures, better cultural operations and plant protection measures. Production of rice which showed an unsatisfactory trend in the initial stages of the Third Plan registered an increase of 1.42 lakh tons in 1962-63. The prospects of the rice crop in 1963-64 are quite good and the anticipated total production of 12.30 lakh tons is expected to be achieved. The target fixed for 1964-65 is 13.61 lakh tons.

9. Closely allied to our programme in the field of agriculture, the co-operative movement has made considerable progress. Both the credit and service functions of the village co-operatives are receiving increasing assistance from Government. Government have made substantial investments in these societies. Assumption of service functions by these societies is one of the main reasons for a much higher consumption of fertilisers evinced during 1963.

10. Distribution of rice through fair price shops continued uninterruptedly. In December last the price of rice showed another upward trend. This resulted from shortage of arrivals of 'Champa' rice consignments from Madras owing to heavy rains.

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The situation was sought to be met by two-fold action. The supply of rice through fair price shops was doubled. An officer was deputed to expedite despatch along the Kerala-Andhra route. I am happy that this action produced results. Prices of rice have registered a downward movement and are expected to stabilise soon at their normal levels. Sanction has been given for opening wholesale consumer co-operative stores in all district headquarters. Wholesale consumer stores have started functioning in Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.

11. Development of fisheries is an integral part of our programme of food production. Three 5-ton Ice Plants-cum-cold storages and one large 25-ton Refrigeration Plant were commissioned in 1963. A housing scheme for fishermen is also in progress. A Fishermen's Relief Fund has been constituted for providing gratuitous relief to families of fishermen in cases of natural calamities.

12. Construction of Dairy projects at Ernakulam, Palghat, Kottayam and Kozhikode is progressing and the Kozhikode Plant will be commissioned before March this year. The scheme for fodder production and cattle breeding in the high ranges has now been started at Mattupetty with Swiss assistance. In this centre, methods of fodder production, together with the improvement of cattle and of dairy economy as also of soil will be developed.

13. Protection of forests has been engaging the serious attention of my Government. The work of demarcation of the forest lands is about to be completed. Four hundred and ninety-eight families of encroachers in the Panniyar Project area were taken out and resettled in the Ranni Forest Division. 109 families from Neyyar reservoir area were shifted and settled in Vazhichal. Eviction is generally attended with hardship and emotional complications. I am

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happy that in these cases, transfer and resettlement were arranged and executed peacefully without causing avoidable inconvenience to the encroachers.

14. The tempo of industrialisation already initiated during the last two or three years has received continued acceleration during 1963. Out of the considerable number of large and medium industries which are taking shape in the private sector, four units have gone into production and one is on the point of going into production. Six new licences to establish large and medium industries in the private sector have been secured during the year. One of the two Co-operative Sugar Mills has just inaugurated trial production. The newly licensed 12 Spinning Mills are under various stages of implementation in this State. Two of them have completed factory construction and are expected to start production shortly. These twelve Spinning Mills are being helped by the State Government to increase their spindlage from 12,000 to 25,000 each. The setting up of a few more Spinning Mills in the Co-operative Sector is under the active consideration of Government.

15. As recommended by the Expert Committee constituted by the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, the existing ten Government-owned industrial concerns are being reconstituted into 5 Joint Stock Companies to increase the flexibility and the efficiency of their functioning. The five new companies have already been registered.

16. The decision of the Government of India to locate the Fourth Oil Refinery at Cochin is an event of major significance to the industrialisation of this State. My Government have decided to invest Rs. 50 lakhs in the share capital of Cochin Refineries Limited. Work on the establishment of the factory is well under way. An appraisal of the development

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potentialities of this State has been made in the report on the Techno Economic Survey of Kerala carried out under the auspices of the National Council of Applied Economic Research. An investment of the order of Rs. 100 crores has so far been planned for factory industries in the central and private sectors as against the total target of Rs. 114 crores for a decade, recommended in that report.

17. While the establishment of the 11 new Industrial Estates is making progress, additional facilities are being provided in the existing ones by constructing new sheds. An industrial estate to produce marine diesel engines, and to house related industries is planned to be started near Cochin with Norwegian collaboration. The number of registered small scale units in the State is 2,006. In addition to the three development areas, to be located at Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Palghat, a fourth development area is proposed at Ankamali. Two Rural Industries Projects have started functioning at Kozhikode and Alleppey. The small scale units have made a noteworthy contribution to our industrial production. Goods worth Rs. 44 lakhs have been purchased by the Director General of Supplies and Disposals for defence purposes from small scale industries since March last year while larger units have supplied defence goods worth another Rs. 200 lakhs.

18. There are 454 coir co-operative societies functioning in this State. Modernisation and rationalisation of the Coir Industry are sought to be achieved by mechanising production of coir mats and matting, introduction of which is under active consideration. Diversification of products from coir has been attempted and there are schemes for introducing manufacture of rubberised coir fibre and allied products. In the Handloom Sector upto now 1,000 powerlooms have been distributed. 500 of these

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have started production. The S.M.S.M. Institute, Trivandrum has been functioning as a Central Handicrafts Emporium and proposals to organise Emporia in Madras and Coimbatore are already on hand. The recommendations of the 'Marketing Clinic' which met at Ernakulam to consider designing, production and marketing are being implemented. Export promotion drive for handicrafts is being organised afresh.

19. The industrial climate is now more favourable than it was at any time before. Cases of strikes and lock-outs are few and industrial peace prevails throughout the State generally. A comparative study of the man-days lost due to strike and lock-out during the period of one year preceding the adoption of the Industrial Truce Resolution and the period of one year succeeding the date, reveals the position. The man-days lost during the period of one year just after the adoption of the Industrial Truce Resolution are less than 1|10 of the man-days lost during the corresponding period of one year just before the date of the Resolution.

20. Special emphasis on Power programmes has become an immediate necessity. The development of agriculture and industry depends to a large extent on the availability of power. Recently we have been compelled to impose a cut in power supply. This was necessitated by the non-availability of sufficient water in the hydel reservoirs and reduced flow in the streams. The situation calls for a long-term plan which is under consideration. There is some scope for short-term correction which is also being attempted. I am happy to note that my Government's attempts to obtain an allocation of power from the Madras Grid have borne some fruit. I am thankful that the Madras Government have agreed to release 21,000 K.W. of power for our use during night.

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21. In response to the requests from the public and the industrial community for advancement of the commissioning of the power projects under construction, the State Government and the State Electricity Board are making every effort in this direction. Panniyar, Sholayar, Sabarigiri, Idikki and Kuttiadi projects are the hydro-electric schemes now in hand. Kuttiadi and Idikki projects which are in preliminary stages will yield results in the Fourth Plan. Attempts are being made to commission the other projects during the Third Plan as far as possible. The first unit of the Panniyar project has been commissioned recently. The construction works of the Sholayar scheme are in advanced stages. The first unit in Sholayar is expected to be commissioned in December 1964 and the remaining two units in March 1965. It is expected that the first unit of the Sabarigiri project will be commissioned in December 1965. By the end of 1966, these projects will ensure a generating capacity of 442 megawatts.

22. Steps have been taken to improve drinking water supply both in urban and rural areas. There is a proposal to implement an augmentation scheme costing Rs. 330 lakhs for improving the reservoir capacity in Trivandrum. Pending implementation of this scheme which will inevitably take some time, Government have started on a scheme for interim augmentation in order to boost up the present gravity flow from 4.8 million gallons per day to 8 million gallons per day. The inauguration of the Quilon water supply scheme took place in February last. The plant work for the Kottayam water supply is nearing completion. A fresh system has been designed in order to enhance the capacity of the Ernakulam-Mattanchery water supply to 10.6 million gallons per day. The Trichur water supply scheme has already been completed and the work on a few minor distribution lines alone remains to be completed in

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the case of the Palghat scheme. For Calicut where a major scheme is essential, one has already been designed. Meanwhile for interim augmentation, an additional infiltration well has been constructed. A comprehensive scheme of water supply has been designed for Cannanore, Tellicherry and Mahe together. 62 village water supply works were started in 1962-63 and 35 works in 1963-64. A complete assessment of the water supply requirements of the State is being made by the Investigation Division. I am happy that this survey is nearing completion.

23. An integrated Child Welfare Project sponsored by the Government of India, to be implemented over a period of five years at an approximate cost of Rs. 5 lakhs has been opened in the Athiyannur Block. This project, besides co-ordinating the existing services for child welfare, will build up integrated and comprehensive services to meet the total needs of the children in the area.

24. A scheme for giving financial assistance to physically disabled and handicapped destitutes and another one for granting pension to destitute widows have been brought into force.

25. In my last address I had indicated that my Government were considering how best a comprehensive land reform measure could be brought into force within the State at an early date. I am happy to note that the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963 has accordingly been enacted covering most of the aspects of land reform. My Government are keen that immediate steps should be taken to implement the provisions of this legislation as quickly as possible so that the relations in the agrarian sector are settled fairly and amicably amongst the interests concerned and a favourable atmosphere for increased agricultural production established on a lasting basis.

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26. During the last year Government considered that the Land Assignment Rules should be revised with a view to speeding up land assignment proceedings and also to granting some concessions to the military personnel. Government expect to issue the revised rules shortly.

27. My Government are examining the report of the Kuttikrishna Menon Committee on Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments. I may mention in this context, that suitable safeguards have already been provided in the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963 to assure the Devaswoms of their existing income. Thus, one of the main grievances of the Devaswoms as reported upon by the Committee has been sought to be remedied.

28. In regard to the welfare of Backward Classes, my Government are continuing to implement ameliorative measures. Government are examining whether ad hoc schemes for bettering the conditions of tribals could be sanctioned in areas where there is some concentration of tribal population. It is proposed to open a new Tribal Block this year.

29. My Government have passed orders on the various recommendations of the Evaluation Committee. Government trust that these measures would contribute significantly to the advancement of depressed classes.

30. The question of reorganisation of the Education Department so as to remove the defects now found in its working and to increase its efficiency has been under the anxious consideration of my Government and a Special Officer has been appointed to go into the question and submit a report.

31. The state of secondary education in the country was surveyed at a conference of the State Education Ministers in November, 1963. It was

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resolved at the conference that a 12-year pre-degree education and 3-year Degree course is the goal towards which the country must work and that the standard at the end of High School and Pre-University course should be raised so as to make the latter equivalent to the Intermediate course of the former four-year colleges. This matter was under the consideration of the Kerala University also for some time. The University has resolved to raise the number of years for the Pre-University course from one to two. Government have agreed with the views of the University and the new scheme of a terminal two-year Pre-University course will be implemented by the University from the next academic year, the number of years for school education being left at ten as at present. It is hoped that the extension of the Pre-University course by one year will raise considerably the standard of University Education.

32. The Kerala University Act was passed in 1957. In the light of the experience gained during the last six years and the later legislations elsewhere regarding University Education, a revised Act is considered necessary for the State. Steps are in progress for the preparation of a revised Kerala University Bill.

33. The schemes for the control of communicable diseases have shown excellent results by now. The Malaria Eradication Programme was successfully completed in 13½ out of the 14½ units in the State. It is a matter of great satisfaction and some legitimate pride that Kerala is the first State to achieve this progress in this field. This year the programme is entering the phase of maintenance. Another notable achievement is the implementation of the National Smallpox Eradication Programme. By the end of this month six districts will be covered by this programme. Tuberculosis is another scourge against which we have been putting up a constant

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fight. Last year one State T. B. Centre was established at Quilon with Norwegian assistance. As part of a National programme, the T. B. Clinics at Cannanore, Palghat, Quilon and Alleppey are being upgraded into District T. B. Clinics. A programme has already been introduced to give financial aid to indigent T. B. patients.

34. Special attention has been bestowed on the programme of Family Planning by my Government. Very soon the Family Planning Organisation will be substantially enlarged.

35. Lack of sufficient nutrition is at the root of many diseases. A significant start to rectify this defect was made with the inauguration of the applied Nutrition Programme on 14-11-1963. The objective is to raise the nutritional standard of ill-fed people. Five Blocks have been selected for the implementation of this programme. The staff of these Blocks are at the moment undergoing training.

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36. The road transport industry of the State is facing a few problems now. Various factors have contributed to an increase in the cost of operation. The increase in fare did not fully solve the problem whereas the public urged for reduction of these rates. A committee has been constituted to study the problems and to make available to Government sufficient analytical data to decide on a rational fare structure. The object is to provide reasonable incentive to the operator and economic transport for the travelling public.

37. Sea erosion and consequent problems have been engaging the serious attention of my Government for some time now. Recently an American expert was deputed by the Government of India for studying the problem of sea erosion in the State and tendering advice on measures to prevent it. His

preliminary report has been received and is being examined. As an experimental measure, as suggested by the American expert, it is proposed to take up early next year, artificial nourishment of the beach for a length of one mile at a suitable place.

38. The coverage of Employment Service in rural areas was extended by setting up additional Employment Information and Assistance Bureaus. The Employment Market Information Unit conducted continuous surveys in all the districts and the data collected have been appreciated as valuable by the Planning Commission. Special Manpower Studies were conducted, Vocational Guidance and Employment Counselling Services were improved and Occupational Research and Analysis was undertaken. The efforts made by the Employment Service in Kerala in the matter of mobilisation of personnel for the Accelerated Training Scheme in the wake of Emergency won national appreciation.

39. The Employees' State Insurance Scheme came into force in this State on 16-9-1956. The main object of the scheme is to provide medical benefit, disablement benefit and dependant benefit to labourers. By the end of the financial year 1,20,282 insured workers and families of 50,447 insured persons will be brought under the scheme. There is a proposal for constructing buildings under the scheme for housing dispensaries and hospitals and quarters for the staff. The construction of some of these hospitals have already started.

40. All these activities are the achievements under a democratic way of living. Their success depends on the sense of partnership they evoke in the citizen. This ideal, if to be achieved at all, can be achieved only by making democracy an integral part of both the formulation and execution of the schemes. A significant move in this regard, made by my Government last year was the conduct of the Panchayat

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Elections. These Panchayats constitute the foundation stone for the three tier system of Panchayat Raj administration. Legislation for setting up the higher tiers, viz., the Panchayat Union Council at the Block level and the Zilla Parishads at the district level is already on the anvil.

41. As you know my Government have appointed a Special Officer to go into the question of enforcing economy in Government expenditure. Even prior to his appointment, a number of ad hoc orders like restricting tours, postponing less urgent items of work and staggering expenditure on less essential and less productive schemes, were issued. The Special Officer has submitted recommendations concerning nine departments. Orders on most of them have been issued and his proposals in other cases are under examination. Certain general recommendations to reduce the expenditure on staff and contingencies were also made by him and have been accepted.

42. It is needless to point out that an effective administrative machinery is a must for putting through ambitious programmes of development. Last year the Organisation & Methods wing of the Secretariat took up case studies in the various departments. These studies comprise within their scope the three aspects of organisation analysis, methods study and work measurement. Apart from rationalising organisational structure the studies will attend to streamlining of administrative procedures and practices with a view to eliminating delays. A Secretariat Training School for improving the work in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of Departments has been sanctioned by the Government and it is programmed to start the School under the O & M division early in 1964. Steps have been taken to arrange for the training of a few technical officers in the techniques of cost reduction. It is proposed

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to organise a cost reduction cell which will explore the possibility of effective savings and preventing wastage of men and materials in public undertakings. The unit will also try to reduce cost of construction without impairing functional efficiency. Evaluation of projects will also be one of the responsibilities of the Unit.

43. A high standard of integrity is essential for the efficient functioning of any Government. Government of India appointed a Committee to go into the question of integrity in public offices and suggest ways and means of improving it. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, the Government of India have decided to set up a Central Vigilance Commission independent of the Government in its day-to-day functioning. The question whether a similar Commission should be set up in the State is receiving the active consideration of my Government.

44. In 1963, forty-seven Bills were introduced in the Legislative Assembly. Of these thirty-nine Bills as also three Bills pending from the previous year were passed by the Assembly.

45. The following Bills, some of which have already been published may be dealt with by the Legislative Assembly during the year 1964:—

1. The Kerala Veterinary Practitioners Bill.
2. The Kerala Fruit Nurseries Bill.
3. The Kerala Medical Practitioners Bill.
4. The Kerala Public Service Commission (Additional Functions as Respects the Services of Local Authorities) Bill.
5. The Kerala Panchayat Unions and Zilla Parishads Bill.
6. The Kerala Private Forests (Acquisition) Bill.

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7. The Kerala Agricultural Produce Markets Bill.
8. The Kerala Prevention and Control of Animal Diseases Bill.
9. The Kerala Fisheries Bill.
10. The Kerala Revenue Recovery Bill.
11. The Kerala Court of Wards Bill.
12. The Kerala Chitties Bill.
13. The Kerala Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill.
14. The Nurse and Midwives (Amendment) Bill.
15. The Payment of Wages (Kerala Amendment) Bill.
16. The Kerala Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill.
17. The Kerala Co-operative Societies Bill.
18. The Kerala Anatomy (Amendment) Bill.

46. I have indicated to you the broad outline of my Government's activities during the year 1963 and their main objectives for this year. Nothing more, as you would appreciate, is possible in such a short time. These measures will, by no means solve all the problems facing us. Agricultural production, industrial development, generation of power, eradication of unemployment, more schools, more colleges, more hospitals and many other essentials still call for continued attention. But it will not, I am sure, be too much to claim that we have marched past another milestone in our strenuous trek to economic well-being. The course that lies ahead will be still more strenuous, no doubt; but we have to remember that history will judge us by our performance during these difficult days. When we succeed—I am sure we will succeed—a lot of the good things man has

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wished for ever since he consciously began the process of constructing a better life for himself will have been guaranteed for many generations to come. Let us today join in a solemn renewal of our pledge, the sacred pledge to work hard, to spend less, to save enough and to sacrifice much, so that the rights and the progress envisaged in our Constitution may reach even the humblest of the hearths of this beloved motherland.

JAI HIND

The Address having been delivered, the Governor departed from the Assembly Chamber in procession. The Speaker then resumed the Chair.

(Copies of the Address were distributed)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. Since the 27th January, 1964, has been declared a public holiday, there will be no meeting of the Assembly on that day. The 28th and the 29th January are therefore allotted for the discussion on the Governor's Address. Amendments, if any, to the motion of thanks may be given to the Secretary before 3 p. m. on Monday, the 27th January. The office will be kept open on the 27th January for this purpose.

The House will now adjourn to meet again at 8 a. m. on Tuesday, the 27th January, 1964.

The House adjourned at 8·35 a. m. to meet again at 8 a. m. on Tuesday, the 28th January, 1964.

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